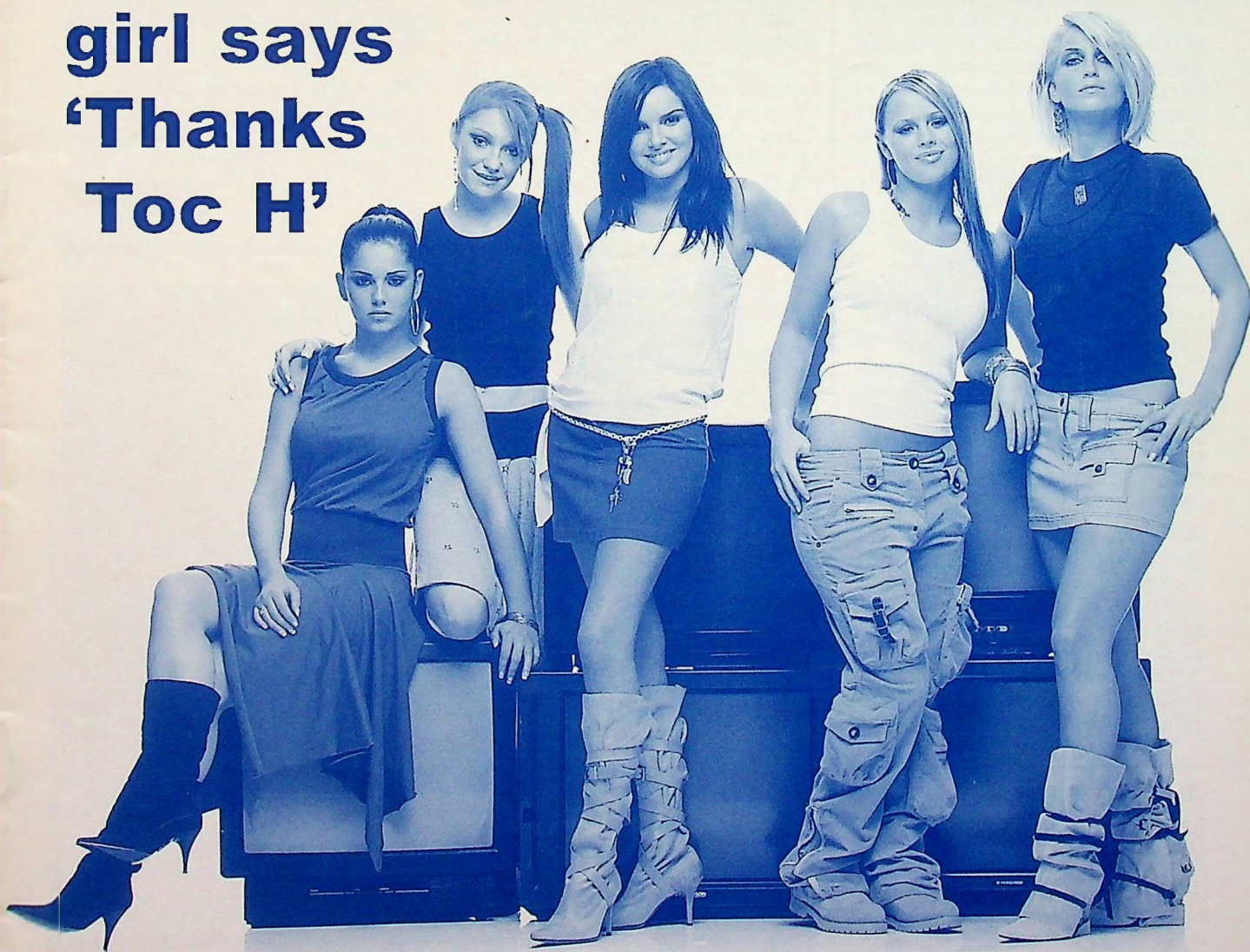


Inside this issue

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- Tea and hot cakes Page 7
- Tea through the ages Page 8

Toc H has been awarded £34,342 in 2003-04 by the Urban Policy Unit at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. The funding, from the Special Grants Programme (SGP), is to develop local leadership by encouraging and equipping people to get involved in their communities. Subject to annual approval, the SGP will support a three year programme to train volunteers from Toc H and other organisations.

Girls Aloud girl says 'Thanks Toc H'



- Toc H has helped to launch a chart-topping pop star, Nicola Roberts, seen second left with the other members of the Girls Aloud group. Read all about it on Page 2.

Toc H and the 'people award'

Toc H has been recognised as an Investor in People organisation after achieving the Standard in November 2002 (and briefly reported in the last issue of Point 3.)

Director Geoff Smith said: "Toc H wanted to benchmark our progress both as an employer and a membership organisation. As a major employer of volunteers and a membership organisation, we wanted to ensure that our commitment and our investment in people was of the highest order. We anticipate a more committed workforce, more sensitive management, and the re-emphasis of the role of Toc H in society."

Ruth Spellman, Chief Executive of Investors in People UK added: "Putting people development at the heart of every function is the most cost-effective decision a business can ever make. Employees are central to business success so it is vital for staff to be skilled, flexible and motivated; this can be achieved through planned and consistent training and development. The Investors in People framework ensures that if you look after your inputs the outputs will look after themselves."

Research conducted among recognised Investor in People organisations has shown that 80 per cent have increased levels of customer satisfaction and 70 per cent have improved their competitive edge and productivity. (Source: Building Capability for the 21st century. CREATE 1999).

Just the ticket

Second in our series of members and their hobbies

Eric Goatham, retired and living in Devon has been a passionate train enthusiast man and boy, and later collected train tickets. When he lived in South London he belonged to the Ticket Society, where members bought and sold their tickets like football stickers.

'I owe so much to Toc H'

"From teddy-bear picnic to Top of the Pops in only 15 months has been quite a journey, but one I'll never forget. I owe so much to that Toc H event."

So says Nicola Roberts, a member of the chart-topping girl band Girls Aloud, whose first experience of performing live before a big audience was the Toc H teddy-bear picnic attended by around 4,000 people in Gateshead in October 2001.

The five-strong group from *Popstars: the Rivals* won the battle with the programme's rival boy band, One True Voice, for the Christmas No 1 spot, with double A-side single, *The Sound of the Underground* and a cover of East 17's *Stay Another Day*.

But 17-year-old Nicola will never forget her 30-minute slot with three-member girls' band Devotion at the Gateshead International Stadium, which was designed to raise interest in voluntary work.

"The atmosphere was electric," said Nicola. "Everyone and his dog seemed to be there. And although it took quite a bit of courage to get up and perform in the first place, once we settled into things it felt great. It really gave me the taste for big live performances."

Devotion, who backed chart-topping The Honeys, folded soon after. But Nicola, from Runcorn, Cheshire, went on to have voice training and develop her career.

Toc H member Norma Buckley, mother of fellow Devotion member Victoria Buckley, said: "Nicola has done really well and we're all so proud of her. She really deserves her success."

The other four members of Girls Aloud are 21-year-old Sarah Harding, from Stockport, Cheryl Tweedy, 19, from Newcastle, Kimberly Walsh, 20, from Bradford and 17-year-old Nadine Coyle, from Derry.



Seven students from the Kiev region of the Ukraine helped to clear the overgrown pond area at Lindridge, cutting back the undergrowth, and opening up the area to make it easier for visitors.

They worked through torrential downpours, and Warden Mike Rowlands said: "Many people have commented on how much better the area looks. Another result is that it has attracted wild pheasants."

The students were part of a Ukrainian scheme, and Toc H volunteers are scheduled to go to the Ukraine for similar work at the State Museum of Folk Architecture and Rural Life in the summer.

Mike added: "The maintenance has also been made easier as a result of local volunteer, Ken Tucker, obtaining two Allen scythes. The scythes were over 40 years old, and had been lying neglected in a field covered in brambles and weeds."

Developing a new heart for experiment in practical Christianity

The seven stages of Toc H

In its first incarnation Toc H was a club for soldiers, a 'Haven in Hell', Everyman's Club. In its second incarnation it consisted of Christian communities of young men, Marks, offering service in the local community. In its third incarnation, Toc H consisted of local groups or branches offering fellowship and service. In its fourth incarnation Toc H developed projects offering volunteers opportunities to serve the common good. In its fifth incarnation Toc H developed social and community projects, Families under Pressure and Friendship Circles, professionally led work within local communities. In its sixth incarnation Toc H developed residential centres offering opportunities for rest and recreation. In its seventh incarnation, which is yet to be revealed, Toc H will develop a network of local centres, TalbotCentres, to develop openings for greater social inclusion.

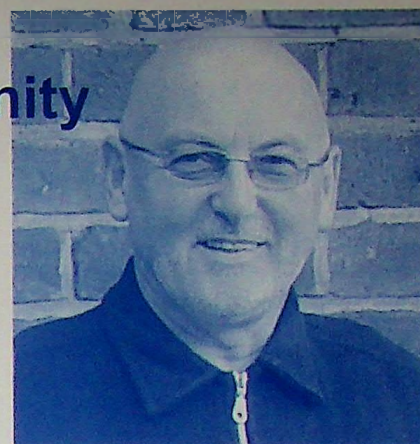
Throughout these seven stages, Toc H has continued to be a membership organisation. Today membership is held in Toc H National and some members continue to meet in branches, older members for

fellowship, and in some newer branches to undertake particular aspects of service meeting locally identified needs.

As the structure of the new Toc H takes shape we need to develop a new heart for what Tubby Clayton called 'this experiment in practical Christianity' and we need to be sensible and realistic. With so much excellent work going on, so many practical schemes and projects fully committed, we need to recognise the claims of the wider family of Toc H.

Toc H branches still raise substantial funds for other charities. Why when Toc H work needs Toc H support into the future? As the sign outside Talbot House proclaims Everyman's Club 1915 - ? We are planning for the future but it needs your help if 'the good thing thus begun' is to continue.

In 2003 new Centres are planned for Bradford, Leigh, Birmingham, Buckinghamshire, Ilford, and Bristol. These will complement the existing residential centres in Ambleside, North Yorkshire, Cheshire, Devon, Lincolnshire, Derbyshire, and Hertfordshire, and community centres in Cheshire, Rhyl and East London as well as activities undertaken in branch rooms across the country.

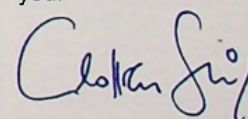


Increasingly through 2003 and beyond, charities will need to rely on their supporters for the resources to undertake the various schemes and projects that carry their name.

Toc H is a well-founded charity with a strong reserves position. The budget for 2003 - 4 is a balanced budget, but it is balanced precariously. There is a line in the budget which is called 'Additional Income Target': this refers to the £450,000 worth of applications under consideration by potential funders. If the additional income target is attained we will deliver the budget as planned, if not we have severely limited options.

We either transfer funds from our reserves or we close the programmes, thereby reducing our effectiveness. As we plan for the future your National Committee, with the Senior Staff, will keep finances under constant review ensuring that all funds raised are spent wisely.

If you or your branch wants to support Toc H as it develops its distinctive approach to supporting community action please contact Central Services where a staff member will be pleased to advise you.



Geoffery Smith
March 2003

Volunteer Co-ordinators

Chris Stoneham and Tony Cock have been appointed the first of the county volunteer co-ordinators Toc H is looking for. Chris will cover Essex, and Tony will work in Kent.

New service connecting with friends

The **inTouCH** Befriending service has launched a new service, that aims to build the confidence and self-esteem of people with mental health problems, at Burnham.

David Wood, **inTouCH** development worker for South Bucks, commented: "In traditional day centres, the 'patients' drop in for a coffee, meal, chat, or to play darts or read a paper. They probably talk to the same people and do the same things each time.

"Our group will spend only half an hour or so in the building, deciding what we want to do. The rest of the time we will go out into the community - to shopping malls, parks, local attractions and events.

"The aim is to give the members confidence and self-esteem and to gain interests that may lead to a new hobby or some form of voluntary work."

David is currently the facilitator and co-ordinator of a similar group in Amersham. "It is run by and for the dozen or so members," he said.

"One of them decided to join the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds following our visit to a bird sanctuary in Gerrards Cross, and another became a volunteer at Didcot Light Railway after we visited that.

"A third member, who used to help me to transport people to the various events, has now become confident enough to work as a driver with Shop Mobility.

"All of this certainly helps to reduce the need for them to return to hospital."

NEW MEMBERS

Toc H is pleased to introduce some new members, including:

Andrew Macdonald, 45, of Weymouth, is an ex-serviceman and amateur historian, with a particular interest in World War One. He hopes to begin a part-time war-studies course later this year.

Beverley Machin, 50, of West Somerset, works as a teaching assistant in her local primary school. Also a carer, she became involved with Taunton branch through her work with the other carers there.

Jacqueline Griffiths, 53, joined Cambridge branch after running Toc H outings. She is currently organising a World War One battlefield tour to Ieper, Belgium, in May. (Details in the Volunteering Action 2003 brochure.)

Michael Burton, 42, of Harpenden, has worked with adults with severe learning disabilities for the past 25 years. He has been involved with Toc H for several years and enjoys ten-pin bowling in his spare time.

Emma Lewsey, 31, who lives in Northamptonshire, heard of Toc H through a colleague. She is a keep-fit enthusiast and enjoys craftwork.

David Gallagher, 31, of North Eastern region, got involved in Toc H through fundraising activities at a local day centre for people with mental health problems. He is a keen sportsman and amateur singer, entering local singing competitions when he can.

Penelope Bayley, of Northumberland, who has worked for Toc H previously, has decided to join up as a full member. She writes her local village newsletter and enjoys reading, when she has the time.

Other new members are:

Paul Darby	North East
David Cole	South-Eastern
Robin Bullock	South Wales
John Henaghen	North Wales
Gabriella Roger	South-Eastern
Alison Davies	South Wales
Philip Moran	South Wales
Anne Frew	Mid-Eastern
Eleanor Mckechnie	Mid-Eastern
Rose Meader	Mid-Eastern
Paul Tunnadine	South Wales
Iris Poole	North Wales
Janet Court	South-Eastern

Toc H works to

'The traumatised and ill do not dese

Toc H is teaming up with a day centre in the London borough of Croydon to improve the service to asylum seekers and refugees.

Croydon Refugee Day Centre, set up by Churches Together in the Borough of Croydon in 1996, offers support and sustenance to between 80 and 150 refugees a week.

Based at West Croydon Baptist Church, it provides a drop-in centre where refugees can get food, clothing and household goods to take home, plus a home-cooked three-course meal.

There is a crèche, a mother-and-toddler group, a women's group and a help point where refugees can meet housing officials, health-care workers and representatives of the Home Office and national and local charities.

The centre houses a family-learning project which, although designed for residents of pre-dispersal hostels in

Thornton Heath, is now also open to other newly arrived families as a first step towards competence in English and understanding British culture.

Information-technology classes are also available, and library resources in several languages.

Terry Drummond, who chairs the board of trustees, said: "Croydon is a main centre for asylum seekers and refugees. The immigration service is based there and being close to Gatwick airport adds to its attraction.

Homeless

"The many refugee groups represented in the community include people from all nationalities and all parts of the world, and our aim is to offer them the best available care and support.

"The asylum seeker and refugee is in many ways the modern equivalent of the outcast in UK society, and recent Government legislation has made things particularly difficult for them.

"Recent laws mean that all new refugees must register on arrival in Britain. Non-registered newcomers face life literally as homeless non-people, without access to any official support.

"In addition to their need to find legal status, a home and the means to survive, many are prone to illnesses such as tuberculosis that are not often found in the wider society. Some still suffer the problems associated with torture and ill treatment in some of the world's most repressive regimes, or the trauma associated with fleeing a war zone such as Somalia, Kosova or Afghanistan.

Support

"The need to reach out to these groups of people and offer health and social care is an imperative within any society that prides itself on care for the individual and groups that need support."

The centre employs two part-time co-ordinators, two crèche workers and an information-technology tutor. All

Charmaine thrilled to work with Toc H

Charmaine Odusina is working with Toc H as a community development worker on the Valley Park estate in West Croydon. This is an estate of 1,200 people living in a mix of social and private housing, 90 per cent on benefits.

Charmaine, who was previously employed by the Diocese of Southwark, is trying to create a community spirit as part of Toc H's 'In Touch' work. She uses a car park as a play centre for children, helps to run mother and toddler groups, worked with residents on a Halloween party, and is involved in a planned healthy living centre.

Charmaine lives in the area and is Chair of the Residents' Association. "We're trying to overcome the image of the area," she said. "I'm thrilled to be able to work with Toc H in this way."

end exclusion

serve to be the pawns of authority'

other personnel are either volunteers or funded by co-operating organisations. Some of the volunteers are refugees who have been granted status or exceptional leave to remain and who help to interpret for their compatriots who are newly arrived.

Terry added: "The local and central government teams responsible for dealing with these problems are often under-funded and unable to reach all the potential clients. The national press and some government ministers may prefer the refugees to

go away. This is not going to happen and it is important that the community and voluntary sector are helped in ensuring that support can be offered in informal and safe surroundings. The traumatised and ill do not deserve to be the pawns of authorities. It is more important that they are able to access services in recognisably safe surroundings."

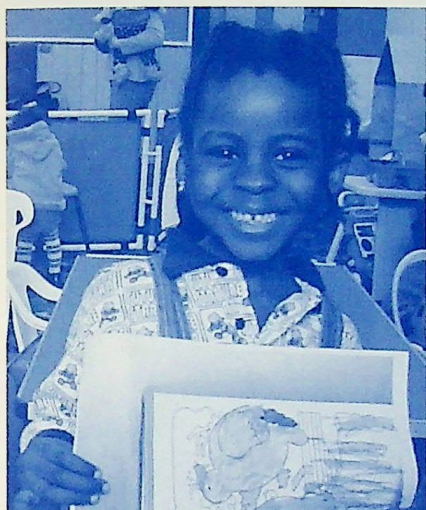
Financial

The centre receives £18,000 a year from Croydon Council, and a number of grants from other sources. It aims to raise up to £90,000 a year to allow for long-term development.

The new partnership will transfer financial management and employment matters to Toc H.

Terry concluded: "The lesson of the development of the centre is the well-established truth that the best services are often rooted in the local community."

• Terry is a co-opted member of the National Management Committee. Other co-opted members are the Ven. Malcolm Grundy, Archdeacon of Craven in the Diocese of Bradford, ex-Toc H volunteer Richard Lowe, and prominent Hindu advisor Manoj Joshi.



Fun: a little girl enjoying herself at the West Croydon Centre



Our aim: to offer the best available care and support

News in brief

Working with churches

Toc H is supporting the work of the churches in the Bowling Quarter of inner-city Bradford for the next three years as part of the West Yorkshire Ecumenical Council's Inner Ring Group. Director of Operations John Dunwell said: "Toc H has a long tradition of supporting community action and this partnership takes us closer to our roots of encouraging people to practise the Christian way of life by encouraging simple good neighbourliness."

Kind hearts

Heart patients in Melton Mowbray will benefit from a new monitoring machine thanks to the local Toc H Friendship Group. The portable ECG monitor measures patients' heart rate over a 24-hour period and enables them to live their daily lives while the machine checks for problems. The group raised £2,000 to buy the machine and has presented it to a local surgery.

Getting ready for Xmas

Plans are already underway at Broughton Astley, Leicester, branch for the next children's carol service, which has been a 'sell-out' in past years. Children who attend bring along gifts for nursing homes for the elderly - last year 240 were collected.

Afternoon tea

Stockport Branch, which celebrates its 80th birthday this year, reports on two very successful outings, firstly taking a party of their blind friends on a coach tour of Cheshire, finishing with afternoon tea at a farm near Leek. Then, residents of a local home for pensioners enjoyed a special lunch in Bolton. Here's to 80 more years of fun!

Tinsel and turkey

Lea Valley Branch entertained 40 guests including local MP, Marion Rose and Cllr David Manning, Mayor of Broxbourne, at a Christmas party held at the Over Sixties Club. And more than £400 was raised with a carol collection for the Demelze House Children's Hospice by Sevenoaks Branch.

Happy holidays

Jack and Pat Turner have once again arranged a family holiday at Alison House from the 23rd to the 27th of June this year. Why not come along and join us, all are welcome. Details from Jack and Pat on 01234 306286 or by e-mail jack.turner1@ntlworld.com

Trip of a lifetime in the USA . . .

For over 50 years the Winant Clayton Volunteer Association (founded, like Toc H, by Tubby Clayton), has run a cross-cultural programme. Toc H sends volunteers to the East Coast of the USA to work on grass roots projects, while simultaneously Americans travel to the UK to undertake similar work. This is a unique and challenging experience as recounted by volunteer John Kennerley.

In October 2002, Toc H member John went to New York to provide recreational activities for a group of up to 70 homeless people in a drop-in centre in the Upper East side of Manhattan. All the clients had been assessed psychologically and were engaged in various programmes such as work search, and withdrawal from substance abuse (i.e. alcohol and drugs).

The clients were aged from 21 to 70 and came from a huge variety of backgrounds. Many were from New York City and were of Puerto Rican, South American and many other ethnic origins. About 60% were male and 40% female. The majority had some type of mental illness.

John quickly learned that if he was to have any success, then he would need to get to know the clients very well. To that end, he spent a lot of time talking to them, telling them about himself, and listening to whatever they wanted to tell him. Gradually, confidences were gained and he became accepted.

The homeless are an extremely difficult group to motivate, as their

problems are acute and many have suffered major life traumas. Nevertheless, John was able to engage them in a range of activities, which included a gardening club, board games, in-house movies, music sessions, art sessions, running a computer lab, and visits to beaches, parks, the Bronx Zoo, art galleries and museums. The musical jamming sessions were particularly successful.

John's clients included Mark, who was about 30 years old - an African American who was schizophrenic and possessed extremely high intelligence and a wonderfully ironic sense of humour.

Laurie was a 30 year-old African American girl. She was fluent in seven languages and painted and played classical guitar to perfection.

John grew very fond of his clients, and found it hard to leave them after eight weeks. The staff were also extremely helpful and John enjoyed their company at work and socially.

Volunteers are encouraged to keep in contact with the exchange programme. This year's volunteers, together with a part-time paid co-ordinator become the organisers of next year's exchange. Additionally, volunteers are asked if they would like to go on the hospitality list so that America participants in the exchange can stay with them.

John felt he gained a great deal from the experience. He says he abandoned any stereotypes he might have had of the homeless; his attitude towards the American people greatly changed - he now regards them to be amongst the most generous he has ever met; finally, the project was very challenging, and made him dig deep - and above all, it was great fun.

. . . and other projects to join

The new residential volunteering booklet is available now from Central Services. It lists a huge range of exciting and rewarding projects which can involve individuals or families. You can join the Cats Festival in Belgium in May, the oldest theme park in Europe, and live as a large family group at Talbot House in Poperinge. You can help with a week of adventures for youngsters at Adlington in August; assist the visually impaired in Devon in September; or enjoy hard work with a bonfire party in Lincolnshire in October. The projects are hard work, fun, and bring the satisfaction of making a difference.

OBITUARIES

Michael J Hathaway
Chippenhams

John H Matthews
Ex Finance Officer
(Toc H Central Services)

Mrs Irene Downer
Ex Bittern Branch

Mr Harold D Macfarlane
London District

Frank Johnston
Ansty

Mrs Isabella Dunn
Birmingham District

Mr Albert Hill
North West/North Wales

Miss Winifred Nelson
South East

Mr D Jenkinson
Crewkerne

Sydney Thomas Measures
Mid-Eastern

Mrs Gladys Hatt
Elmstead (J)

Mrs Kathleen Winifred Pill
Chippenhams/Swindon District

David Feltham
Somerton

Harold Owen Binder
Northants District

Eileen Salisbury
Cambridge (J)

Harold Barnes
Colwyn Bay

Michael retires

A man who has kept Toc H 'in touch' with itself for many years is due to retire shortly. Michael Tomlinson has dispatched Point 3 and supplied all stationery and publicity requests, plus running the print room. He will be retiring from Central Services when he reaches 65, and a collection is being organised. If you would like to contribute please send a donation to Sally Courtney at Central Services.

Point 3

Point 3 Editor is Sue Coffey who can be contacted via Central Services or emailed at info@zymo.co.uk tel 01274 841402. The next deadline is May 16. The opinions expressed in this issue are not necessarily those of Toc H, and the Editor reserves the right to cut articles and letters.

Letter to the Editor

I am grieved that you have decided to omit Tributes to members who have died. As the years go by and less meetings take place, we lose touch with many who have shared with us in the wider family of Toc H. We pray for each other but it is good to be reminded of those who have supported us in the journey of life and done so much for the Movement over the years.

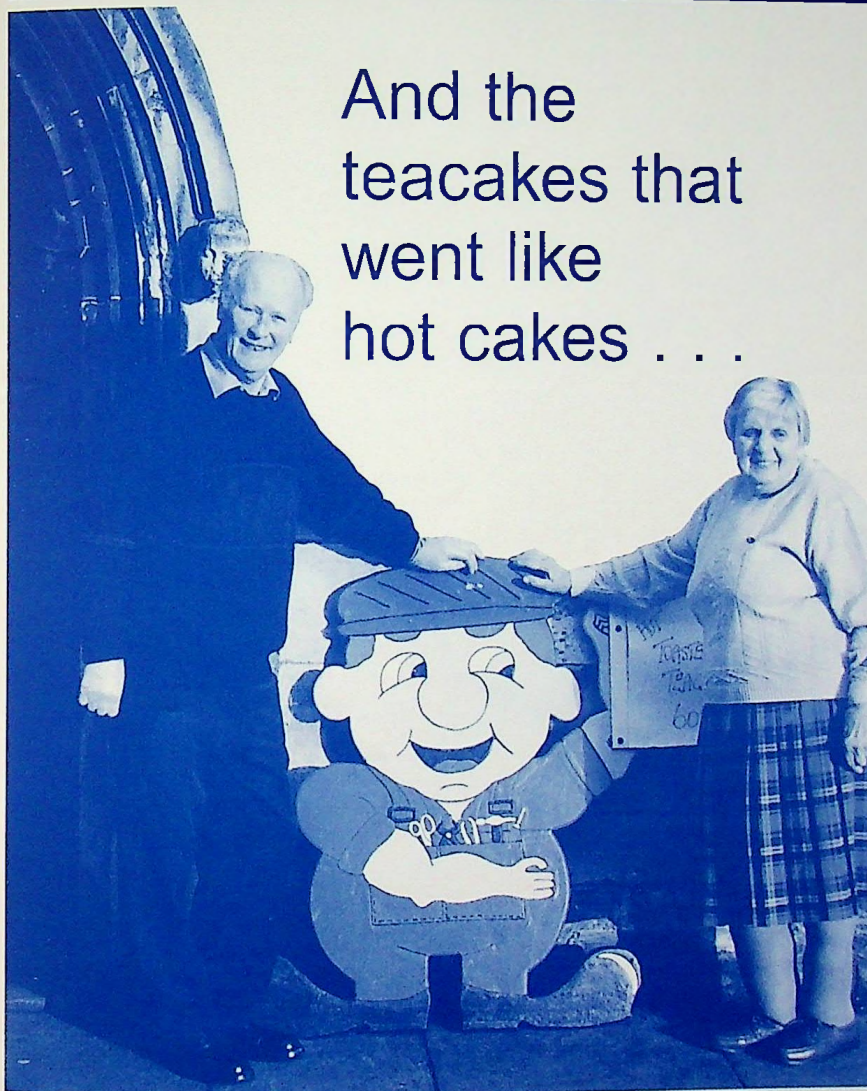
Betty Blower, Leamington Spa

Letters to the Editor can be posted to Central Services or emailed to info@zymo.co.uk



A nice cuppa: Pytchley Branch of Rushden Toc H celebrated their 30th birthday with tea served in the style of the famous Nippy waitresses. The room was transformed into a Lyons Corner House, with background music, potted plants, fancy cakes, and the Nippys who served traditional pots of tea. The birthday cake was cut by founder member Connie Houghton, and the oldest member, 89-year-old Winifred Perkins.

And the teacakes that went like hot cakes . . .



Keith Crocker, warden of Colsterdale, and Margaret Dunwell, chairman of the former Northern region, raised almost £300 during a day at historic St Crux Church in the heart of York. They'd persuaded friends, families and Toc H members to provide home-baked cakes and items for sale at a Toc H stall, and Keith reports that it was a busy day with a constant stream of customers. He said: "The toasted teacakes were extremely popular!"

The special sparkle of World Chain of Light

The Silver Lamp of Wales was brought specially from Newport, filled with oil and the wick carefully trimmed, for the start of this year's World Chain of Light, writes Margaret Davies, member in the West Midlands region. There are just a few silver lamps dotted around the world, so this made the ceremony extra special. Preparations had been going on for several months with contact between Toc H Centres around the world as far apart as Mexico, Zimbabwe and Australia, and the Community House in Birmingham was a hive of activity before final preparations were made for the 24-hour vigil.

This year's Chain of Light starts in India in December

The initial ceremony was well attended and a succession of stalwart members and friends kept watch during the night and into the next day. Refreshments were provided by the management committee and by the residents who also took part in the readings and early morning watch.

Greetings were received from branches in this country and other centres across the world. These were collated and read during the vigil and at the end. The final reading of the message took place on the second evening before the lamp was finally put out and the ceremony finished with prayers at 9.00 pm.

Grateful thanks are due to Hilary Geater Childs and all who helped and supported her. We were pleased to see Geoff Smith and his wife Janet for a brief visit.

Margaret Davies

Full steam ahead for food through time

Toc H is a family affair for Daz and Christoph Mickwitz, with son Diccon, daughter-in-law Penny, and 18-month grandson Kai.

Their younger children Kit, 13, and 11-year-old Robin, are also Toc H members, while Christoph, Daz, Diccon and Penny are volunteer leaders.

And they are helping with the series of 'Take Tea with Toc H' meals which Director Geoff Smith is planning by opening their beautiful house dating back to the fourteenth century. It will be the venue for a fund-raising meal with courses spanning 600 years of history. Christoph and Daz live in the delightful Newhouse Hall, in the Sheepridge district of Huddersfield.

Among the many attractions of the house, whose fourteenth-century wooden structure was stone clad around 1550, are ornate plasterwork ceilings from around 1620 and a Charles I staircase.

"We feel extraordinarily privileged to live here and want to share some of the benefits with the community," said Daz.

They plan a tea cooked on the house's wood-burning stove, with courses from different periods of the house's history, to raise money for Toc H.

"Fortunately, I am really interested in cooking, so it will be a labour of love,"

said Daz, who has also staged folk evenings and guided tours of the house to raise money for Toc H.

The couple, who have lived at Newhouse Hall for 30 years, became involved with Toc H through their son and daughter-in-law, Diccon and Penny, who are themselves Toc H members.

"We are all four trained as Toc H project leaders and have provided accommodation for volunteers on the projects we have led," added Daz.

The projects have included men's and women's weekends and conservation

work such as cleaning up near-by woodland and building a small bridge over a stream.

"We are all committed to Toc H," she explained. "Its ethos is good, and it helps people to meet each other and break down barriers and prejudices."

- 'Taking Tea with Toc H' aims to raise £20,000 for the 2003 Director's Appeal. Geoff's plan is that Toc H members ask people to join them in their homes for a meal for which they will contribute a small sum. This could be done individually or by branches and centres.



Stuart develops international role

Stuart Wroe, former staff member for Toc H and now a member of the National Management Committee, is starting a new phase of his career with the international development agency of the worldwide YMCA movement.

He writes:

"I am married to Carole, and have two teenage dependants, Jamie and Charlotte. Much of my career has been spent in the voluntary sector, starting in fundraising, then to area and regional management for a national animal welfare charity.

This area of expertise was developed in my time on the Toc H staff as a divisional officer. My commitment went beyond my paid duties, and on a voluntary basis I was involved in developing a new local branch in Skipton and national and international projects including the successful B99 Peace project. This operated in partnership with the National Council of YMCAs in Ireland and Tubby's Poperinge Group which received high-level support from Prime Minister Tony Blair, and President Mary MacAleese.

When I left Toc H in 1999 I developed skills in global management gaining an MSc in Development Management with the Open University. I went on to secure a development management post with an inner-city community in Bradford, and a national role with a major charity for the homeless."

Picture power

Photographs in this issue of Point 3 include those kindly supplied by Anderson Grounds and Company, and Toc H Lea Valley member Steve Smith